

*S. J. Nelson*

**BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM**



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR

**1957.**



1957  
BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

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*Mayor :*

COUNCILLOR T. E. HOLTON

*Deputy Mayor :*

ALDERMAN A. E. BUSBY

**Public Health Committee**

*(Full Council)*

Chairman : Alderman A. E. Busby, J.P.

Alderman The Rt. Hon. Lord Addington, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.

Alderman P. J. Small

Alderman S. G. Williams

Coun. C. V. P. Airey

Coun. A. M. Hudson

„ R. J. W. Bodenham, J.P., M.A.

„ C. N. Jones

„ H. E. Cornwall

„ W. Krohn

„ G. F. A. Downer

„ T. Lambourne

„ J. Edmonds

„ A. G. F. Marriott

„ F. E. Y. Fleet

**Public Health Staff :**

*Medical Officer of Health :*

D. H. WALDRON, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., Col. I.M.S. (Rtd).

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham R.D.C., Bletchley U.D.C., Linslade U.D.C., Wing R.D.C., Newport Pagnell U.D.C., Newport Pagnell R.D.C., and Wolverton U.D.C., and Divisional School M.O. for North Bucks and Buckingham and Winslow District, and Area Medical Officer for North Bucks<sup>1</sup>).

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health :*

DR. F. SEYMOUR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Health Inspector :*

R. TAYLOR, M.S.I.A.

*Secretary :*

MISS A. CRANWELL.

## BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

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TOWN HALL,  
BUCKINGHAM.

7th July, 1958.

To the Mayor, Alderman and Councilors  
of the Borough of Buckingham.

Mr. Mayor, My Lord, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the Year 1957.

The Birth Rate shows a rise on last year and is 2.7 points higher than the rate for the country as a whole.

The Death Rate shows a satisfactory drop on last year being nearly 3 points lower than the national rate. Of the 37 deaths, Heart and allied diseases and Cancer accounted for 24.

The Infantile Mortality Rate which was nil in 1956 showed a sharp rise. There were 3 deaths in this group.

I should like to record again my thanks to your Town Clerk, Mr. Archdeacon, your Borough Surveyor and Health Inspector, Mr. Rennie Taylor, and their staffs for their helpful co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

DANIEL H. WALDRON.

## A. Vital Statistics.

	1956	1957
Area (in acres) . . . . .	5367	5367
Population . . . . .	*4130	4130
Number of Inhabited Houses . . . . .	1561	1565
Rateable Value . . . . .	£50,839	£47,434
Rate per £1 . . . . .	18/5	20/6
Sum represented by a Penny Rate . . . . .	£207	£196

BIRTHS:	M.	F.		
Legitimate . . . . .	33	36	61	69
Illegitimate . . . . .	3	2	5	5
Birth rate per 1,000 population . . . . .			17.1	18.8
"    "    "    (Bucks) . . . . .			16.3	16.7
"    "    "    (England & Wales) . . . . .			15.7	16.1
Still Births . . . . .			2	3

	M.	F.		
DEATHS . . . . .	16	21	42	37
Death rate per 1,000 population . . . . .			9.9	8.8
"    "    "    (Bucks) . . . . .			9.9	9.7
"    "    "    (England & Wales) . . . . .			11.7	11.5
Maternal Mortality Rate . . . . .			Nil	Nil
"    "    "    (Bucks) . . . . .			0.43	0.55
"    "    "    (England & Wales) . . . . .			0.56	0.47

### INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under 1 year per		
1,000 live births . . . . .	Nil	40.5
"    (Bucks) . . . . .	17.1	21.6
"    (England & Wales) . . . . .	23.8	23 0

\* Estimated Mid. 1957.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH:					1956			1957		
					M	F	T	M	F	T
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...				0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Tuberculosis	...				0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	...	...	...	...	3	4	7	2	0	2
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	0	1	1	0	0	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...			3	5	8	1	6	7
Heart Disease	...	...	...		6	7	13	7	6	13
Other Diseases of Circulatory										
System	...	...	...		2	1	3	1	1	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...		1	3	4	0	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...		0	0	0	0	3	3
Digestive Diseases	...	...	...		0	0	0	0	1	1
Congenital Causes	...	...	...		0	0	0	1	1	2
Nephritis	...	...	...		0	0	0	0	0	0
Accidents	...	...	...		1	2	3	1	2	3
All other Causes	...	...	...		2	1	3	3	1	
TOTALS					18	24	42	16	21	37

## B. General Provision of Health Services.

### 1. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Specimens for pathological investigation were sent, as in previous years, to the laboratory at Oxford. The arrangement was satisfactory. Samples for chemical analysis have to be sent to Hayward's Heath.

### 2. AMBULANCE SERVICES.

These are administered direct from the County Health Department, Aylesbury. One sitting case car was stationed in Buckingham, and supplemented when necessary with ambulances from Bletchley.

### 3. NURSING IN THE HOME.

The District Nurses as always carried out their excellent work.

### 4. CLINICAL AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.—A Centre at the Congregational Chapel Hall has held bi-monthly sessions with the Medical Officer in attendance once a month. Although the amenities of the Centre were far from ideal, good work has been carried out therein and attendance has been satisfactory. Total attendance

of children throughout the year was 556. I feel that too much praise cannot be given to those ladies who give so much of their spare time in helping with this work. Diphtheria immunisations were also carried out in this Clinic.

(b) Orthopaedic Clinic.—Sessions have been held twice monthly and have been staffed by nurses from the Wingfield Morris Hospital.

(c) Chest Clinic.—This self-contained unit, complete with X-ray, continues to do very good work. It is held once a week at 19, Stratford Road, and is attended by the Chest Physician.

## 5. HOSPITALS.

The following hospitals have received cases from this area :

1. Buckingham Hospital.
2. Aylesbury Isolation Hospital (Infectious cases).
3. Slade Hospital, Oxford.
4. Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.
5. Wingfield-Morris Hospital, Oxford.
6. Creton Sanatorium.
7. Royal Bucks.

## 6. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

This service, instituted under the National Health Service Act, is administered by the County Council. During the year 42 cases were assisted.

## C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

### 1. WATER.

The public water supply was maintained throughout the year satisfactorily as regards quantity, and the high bacteriological quality was maintained.

Waste water detection was carried out during the year, and the daily consumption averaged 37.587 gallons per head of the population. The amount of water consumed during the year was 56,683,100 gallons and the amount pumped from the deep well was 47,962,500 gallons.

Twenty bacteriological examinations were made on the raw water, and on the piped supply after treatment, all but one were satisfactory.

One chemical analysis was made which showed the following results:—

## CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC WATER.

	Parts per 100,000	Grains per Gallon
Total solids (dried at 180° C.) ... ..	48.0	33.6
Combined chlorine (Cl) ... ..	2.0	1.4
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride (Na Cl) ... ..	3.3	2.3
Nitric nitrogen (Nitrates) ... ..	0.12	0.08
Nitrous nitrogen (Nitrites) ... ..	Nil	Nil
Ammoniacal nitrogen ... ..	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid nitrogen ... ..	0.0010	0.0007
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C. ... ..	0.011	0.008
Lead or Copper ... ..	Nil	Nil
Temporary hardness (equivalent to Ca CO <sub>3</sub> ) ... ..	12.5	15.8
Permanent hardness ( " " " ) ... ..	9.0	6.3
Total hardness ( " " " ) ... ..	31.5	22.1

### 2. SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The two sewage works, one serving the Gawcott area and one the Buckingham area, have continued to work satisfactorily throughout the year.

The old works in Buckingham has maintained a fairly high standard of effluent.

The new modern sewage disposal works on the site of the existing works was commenced in June. Progress has been rapid and satisfactory and the plant should be in operation in July 1958.

### 3. REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Refuse is collected once a fortnight in the Rural part of the area, and weekly in the built-up area.

Complaints regarding refuse collection are few and infrequent.

Refuse is disposed of by the controlled tipping method. One tip is used at Gawcott and the new tip at Stratford Road, Buckingham is now in operation. The latter site should provide tipping space for the town for a considerable number of years.

### 4. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

Despite unfavourable weather conditions during the 1957 season, the Buckingham Swimming Pool continued to be highly popular and successful, and certain improvements were made.

Again the Education Committee and local private schools took full advantage of the bathing facilities during the summer term.

### 5. FACTORIES.

No matters calling for special attention have been reported, and Factories Act Form 572 has been completed.



## 6. PUBLIC MORTUARY

The Public Mortuary, situated in this Council's yard, continued to serve the needs of the Borough and the Rural District.

### D. Housing.

During the year 15 families were re-housed and no new Council houses were completed and occupied during the year. It is hoped that a start will be made on 50 "Reema" Houses in January 1958.

### E. Annual Report of Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

I have pleasure in presenting a brief report on the principal activities of the Public Health Department during 1957.

#### NUISANCES, CONTRAVENTION OF BYE-LAWS, ETC.

Complaints received and investigated	...	...	793
Nuisances, etc., found without complaint	...	...	15
Nuisances, etc., abated	...	...	523
Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Acts			—
Informal Notices served under the Public Health Acts			48
Prosecutions	...	...	—

#### HOUSES AND PREMISES INSPECTED.

The total number of inspections under the Public Health Acts were as follows:—

Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	7
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	7
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	24
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	142
Foodshops	...	...	...	...	50
Visits under the Tuberculosis Order	...	...			1
Infected house visits (excluding Tuberculosis cases)	...				6
Dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	556
					<hr/> 793 <hr/>

In addition to the above, visits were carried out under the Factories Act, Shops Act, Rats and Mice Destruction Act, and Petroleum Act, and Disinfestation of Vermin-infested properties.

#### HOUSING ACTS.

30 houses have been scheduled for inclusion in Clearance Areas, or to be dealt with as individual unfit houses, during the next 5 years.

It should be appreciated of course that the ability to deal with these houses will depend largely upon the Council's Housing Committee being able to provide alternative accommodation on the housing estates for the displaced families.

#### FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Mechanical Factories on the Register	...	...	25
Non-mechanical Factories	...	...	2
Visits paid to Factories	...	...	20

#### MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATION, 1949.

Retail premises and distributors continue to be under the control of this Council and are required to be registered and subject to periodic inspection.

Two large receiving depots in the district were visited from time to time during the year, and conditions found to be satisfactory.

#### SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLY.

Two Slaughterhouses in Buckingham operate privately. Strict meat inspection routine, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Memo, 62, Foods, was carried out.

142 visits were made, and all animals slaughtered for sale for human consumption were examined. Numerous visits were made to other food premises for the inspection of unsound foodstuffs.

Approximately 146 Beasts, 547 Sheep, 3 Calves and 224 Pigs were slaughtered during the year.

Close attention has been paid to food premises, having regard to the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56.

The number of premises affected by the regulations being 82 and falling into the following categories :—

Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	7
Public Houses	...	...	17
Stalls	...	...	7
Canteens	...	...	15
Food Shops	...	...	33
Dairies	...	...	3

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act is 22, and all such premises are regularly inspected.

No clean food campaigns have been sponsored during the period.

All food premises have been supplied with extracts from the Food Hygiene Regulations.

## PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.

Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit ...	29
Inspection of Petroleum Stores ... ..	30

## RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ORDER, 1919.

## RODENT INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

Work under this heading has continued to occupy a large amount of time, and much good work has been done in this direction throughout the year. The following is a brief summary of the work carried out:—

Number of complaints received ... ..	26
Number of premises treated for rats ... ..	42
Number of premises treated for mice ... ..	6
Estimated number of rats destroyed ... ..	150
Actual rats' bodies found ... ..	72
Visits for Inspection and Survey ... ..	84
Visits for Baiting and Extermination ... ..	175

RENNIE TAYLOR,  
*Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.*

## F. Prevalance of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

### 1. GENERAL.

The incidence of notifiable infectious diseases was very low during the year.

### 2. NUMBER OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

	1956	1957
Measles ... ..	—	2
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	3	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	6
Dysentery ... ..	—	1

### 3. CANCER.

There were only 2 deaths from this disease during the year, compared with 7 in 1956.

### 4. TUBERCULOSIS.

Four new cases were notified but it is satisfactory to note that there were no deaths. Two of the cases notified were transfers into the district.

D. H. WALDRON,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

